

### **REMARKS**

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006 within the shortened three month statutory period for reply. The Office Action rejects claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47, objects to claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49, and allows claims 40 – 43. In response, Applicants cancel claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter and rewrite claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 in independent form to included all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. After entry of this amendment, claims 30 – 33, 40 – 43, 45, and 48 – 49 (5 independent claims, 11 claims total) remain pending in the application. Applicants request that the Examiner permit the remaining claims to issue.

#### **Regarding Claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47**

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ferrara et al. ("Ferrara") U.S. Patent No. 6,588,412.

Applicants cancel claims 11, 29, 34, 46, and 47 without prejudice to filing one or more applications having claims with similar subject matter.

#### **Regarding Claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49**

The Office Action objects to claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants rewrite claims 30, 45, 48, and 49 as independent claims that included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants additionally amend claims 30, 45, and 49 to improve clarity and readability. Claims 31 – 33 depended from rewritten independent claim 30 and contain all of the elements thereof. Applicants request that the Examiner permit claims 30 – 33, 45, 48, and 49 to issue.

**Regarding Claims 40 – 43**

The Examiner allows claims 40 – 43. Applicants request that the Examiner permit claims 40 – 43 to issue.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for issue. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Date: 8/24/2006

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Lawrence Letham, Reg. No. 53,208

**Letham Patent Group, LLC**  
914 N. Tucana Lane  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
Phone: 480-924-3990  
Mobile: 480-236-9276  
Fax: 480-924-0289  
Email: lletham@lethampg.com